

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NATO, GR
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
ON NATO AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN GREECE

1. IN A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION DATED NOVEMBER 30, 1976 AND
ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, THREE COMMUNIST
PARTY (EXTERIOR) DEPUTIES RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING GREECE'S
RELATIONS WITH NATO AND THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON
GREEK TERRITORY. IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY ON DECEMBER 13, 1976
(WHICH BECAME PUBLIC OVER THE WEEKEND), DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF
REITERATED THAT THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF GREECE TOWARDS NATO RE-
MAINS THE SAME. HE STATED THAT THE CONDITIONS WHICH CAUSED
GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE
HAVE NOT CHANGED AND GREECE CONTINUES TO PARTICIPATE OFFICIALLY
ONLY IN THE ALLIANCE'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

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2. IN THEIR WRITTEN QUESTION, THE COMMUNIST DEPUTIES HAD
SPECIFICALLY QUESTIONED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER
IN THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP MEETING IN LONDON LAST NOVEMBER
IN THE LIGHT OF THE ANNOUNCED POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
THAT GREECE HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE MILITARY WING OF NATO. THEY
ALSO ASKED WHETHR NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE LOCATED IN GREECE.

3. IN REPLY TO THE ABOVE, AVEROFF STATED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE GREEK DEFENSE MINISTER AT THE NPG MEETING WAS NECESSARY SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR THE COUNTRY TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT. MOREOVER, HE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE ONLY FOUR PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE NPG, WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS ROTATING EVERY EIGHTEEN MONTHS. "WE DO NOT BELIEVE," HE ADDED, "THAT THE QUESTIONERS WOULD WANT ONLY TURKEY TO BE AT THESE MEETINGS ALWAYS."

4. WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN GREECE, AVEROFF STATED THAT TO REPLY POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO REVEALING DEFENSE SECRETS CONCERNING THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE COULD NOT GO BEYOND THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS REPEATEDLY MADE IN THE PAST, THAT "THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON CRETE OR ON THE AMERICAN BASES NOW SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS," WITHOUT THE DANGER OF SERIOUS HARM TO GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS.
KUBISCH

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